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FBI Cites 'Restraint' in Probe Of Those Named in Stolen Data

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WASHINGTON. — Justice Department officials disclosed here Wednesday night that more than 1000 confidential documents—some of which have generated an uproar in liberal circles—were taken in the March 9 burglary of an FBI office in Media, Delaware County.

Some of the documents—made public anonymously by the anti-government group which stole them — detailed FBI scrutiny of a Philadelphia-area black rights leader and a suburban college professor.

SENT TO PRESS

Justice officials charged Wednesday night that 14 documents, mailed to congressmen and newspapers, were carefully selected to create an impression of unwarranted or illegal methods used by the FBI.

"Actually," one Justice official said, "a full examination of the stolen documents (the FBI had copies of most of them) reveals the FBI showed restraint rather than over-zealousness."

But a black rights leader—Muhammed Kenyatta, a national officer of the Black Economic Development Council, based in Germantown—charged in Philadelphia on Wednesday that the Media burglars had exposed governmental efforts to "subvert" peace and civil rights groups.

However federal officials said Wednesday night that the FBI's activities were routine and proper in the course of investigations, and cited the case of the unnamed college professor as an example.

The said that though the documents released by the burglars made it appear the professor was being watched solely because of his politics, that was not the case.

BANK HOLDUP

The document in question, they said, was part of a packet of FBI memos concerning the slaying last September of a Boston policeman during a bank holdup.

They said two of the suspects—Katherine Power, 21, of Denver, and Susan Saxe, 20, of Albany, N. Y.—were acquainted with the professor, and that the FBI considered it probable the two women might try to contact the professor.

Therefore, the officials said, the professor was put under surveillance as part of "a straight criminal investigation." And, they charged, memos withheld by the anti-government would have shown had they been made public en toto.

Kenyatta denied being a member of the "Citizen Commission to Investigate the FBI" which, he said, took the documents, but commended its efforts against "the FBI practice of snooping into the lives of private citizens."

The FBI documents released so far, Kenyatta said, show the FBI tapped a Chester man's phone to obtain Kenyatta's phone numbers — one of which was a listed number.